

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PRS-01 /044 W

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P R 071405Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0005

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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FOR NEA/AFN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY

SUBJECT: QUERY RE NAMING US AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA

1. LAST MAY LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO ABDALLAH AL-SHABANI SUWAYSI ASKED ME WHY WE CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO TRIPOLI. HE LOOKS BACK ON HIS SERVICE IN WASHINGTON WITH NOSTALGIA, AND RAISED THE SUBJECT, ON A PERSONAL BASIS SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WISHED TO SEE CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND HIS COUNTRY. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SUWAYSI DOES NOT GET ALONG WITH QADHAFI, AND IS THEREFORE AN UNLIKELY CONDUIT FOR A LIBYAN PROBE.

2. WHEN IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY JUNE I WAS GIVEN FOLLOWING GUIDANCE TO USE IN RESPONDING TO SUWAYSI'S INQUIRY:

QUOTE. QUESTION: CAN YOU CONFIRM WHETHER THE LIBYANS HAVE OFFERED TO RESTORE COMPLETE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HAVE NOMINATED AN AMBASSADOR BUT THE USG HAS FAILED TO REPLY?

ANSWER: WE HAVE COMPLETE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: RELATIONS WITH LIBYA HAVE NEVER BEEN BROKEN SINCE THEY
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WERE ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED. WE EACH HAVE EMBASSIES

IN THE OTHERS' CAPITAL BUT NEITHER IS CURRENTLY HEADED BY AN AMBASSADOR. IT IS TRUE THAT THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOMINATED AN AMBASSADOR: WE HAVE THAT NOMINATION UNDER CONSIDERATION. WE HAVE RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT THE BARRIERS TO IMPROVED RELATIONS, AS WE SEE THEM. WE DO NOT DEMAND THAT EVERY NATION AGREE WITH ALL OF OUR POLICIES AS A CONDITION OF GOOD RELATIONS. WE DO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT SO LONG AS THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS POLICY OF ACTIVELY UNDERMINING OUR EFFORTS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND GIVES SUPPORT AND REFUGE TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS, THERE WILL BE LITTLE BASIS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. UNQUOTE.

3. BECAUSE OF A VERY SERIOUS CAR ACCIDENT, SUWAYSI WAS OUT OF CIRCULATION FOR THE PAST FOUR MONTHS. HE REAPPEARED ON THE SCENE THIS WEEK AND AGAIN RAISED THE QUESTION OF OUR SENDING AN AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, NOTING HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO TRIPOLI ON CONSULTATION DURING WEEK OF OCT 11 AND WOULD PROBABLY SEE QADHAFI.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING IF GUIDANCE IN PARA 2 ABOVE IS STILL CURRENT SO I CAN ADVISE SUWAYSI OF OUR POSITION WHEN HE SEES ME ON OCTOBER 11.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RABAT05435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760378-0968
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761072/aaaacknb.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUERY RE NAMING US AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006